In the Specification

On page 9, line 9, please delete "□". The sentence should now read as follows:

Again referring to FIG. 2, a syndrome computer 240 of decoder 130, in one example, comprises a plurality of syndrome generators 220 for processing the received vector $r(x)$ 122 and the roots array $\underline{a}$ 215 to produce a plurality of syndromes $\underline{s}$ 225.

Please delete the first four (4) paragraphs on page 7. Page 7 should now begin as follows:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

A detailed discussion of an exemplary embodiment of the invention is

presented herein, for illustrative purposes.

On page 10, line 9, please delete the word "masks" and replace it with –mask--. The sentence should now read as follows:

For instance, syndrome generator 220 generates a reduction mask 351 from a generator polynomial root 212, and employs the reduction mask 351 to generate representation $c_j(x)$ 342.

In the abstract of the invention, please delete "that is based on portion of vector (122),". The abstract should now read as follows:

System (100) for generating syndrome (222) usable in decoder (130)

includes reducer (340) and converter (330). Reducer (340) employs information

to generate representation (342). Converter (330) generates, with employment

of representation (342), syndrome (222).